

2018

# Black Hills National Forest Non-Motorized Trail Strategy



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***It is important to note that this is a strategy, not a decision document. Site-specific analysis is still necessary to approve a specific trail project or remove a system trail. This strategy will guide where and how trail change occurs over time.***

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### A. Background –

The Black Hills National Forest (BKNF) has collaborated with the National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) and members of the public to better understand user needs of the current non-motorized trail system on the Forest. As a result, the BKNF has developed a trail strategy document that includes a Trail Proposal Process (TPP) for user groups to recommend new trails to the current system.

### B. Goals / Objectives –

The Non-Motorized Trail Strategy document provides a framework for the sustainable management of non-motorized trails across the BKNF. The future success of a sustainable non-motorized trail system relies on the commitment to three main factors:

- 1) Social sustainability
- 2) Ecological sustainability
- 3) Economic sustainability

The sustainable non-motorized trail system will:

- 1) Provide a range of high quality recreational experiences that inspires stewardship and invites people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to experience the outdoors, while protecting and conserving cultural and natural resources.
- 2) Where feasible, connect Forest Service trails with adjacent public lands and local communities.
- 3) Have a vibrant volunteer and partnership program.
- 4) Have educated and engaged internal and external users on trail issues, management, and opportunities available on Forest and surrounding areas.
- 5) Eliminate illegal trail building.

Success will be accomplished through thoughtful consideration of designed and managed use to meet user experiences, assuring trail sustainability on the ground, and maximizing opportunities for using appropriated funding, grants, partnerships, and volunteers. A sustainable trail system is integral for year round activities and promotes a way to connect with nature.

### **C. How we will get there –**

1. Assessment of the current non-motorized trail system. Currently, non-motorized trails on the Forest fall into one of 3 categories:
  - a) Trails that need standard maintenance
  - b) Trails that need reconstruction
  - c) Trails that need relocation / new construction / are unsustainable
2. Unsustainable trails will be decommissioned from the system.
3. The BKNF will work with local communities and other land management agencies to create connected or “loop” systems where feasible.
4. A Trail Proposal Process (TPP) has been developed that allows individuals or user-groups to request additions or changes to the current system.
5. Develop, maintain and nurture relationships with the public, specifically volunteers and user-group clubs and organizations, to allow open communication and provide empowered stewardship within the trails community to invest in these world-class and diverse trails. Our goal is to strengthen these relationships and develop more effective partnerships to improve volunteer efforts for the future.
6. Ongoing assessment of the trail system to ensure it is sustainable, accessible to people of all ages and abilities, and is meeting user needs is critical for success. The BKNF will continue to collaborate with the NFAB and user-groups to ensure open dialogue and information exchange. The successful future of recreational trails on the Black Hills National Forest relies on a close cooperative and communicative relationship between the Forest Service and volunteer and partner organizations.

### **D. Conclusion**

The BKNF goal is to continue the maintenance and development of a non-motorized trail system that inspires stewardship and invites people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to experience the outdoors, while protecting and conserving cultural and natural resources.

By applying the principles and actions in this document, the BKNF will achieve our goal of a trail system that is socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable. The newly developed TPP provides a clear process for newly proposed trails to be evaluated for potential construction and included onto the system.

Continued collaboration and open dialogue with NFAB and user-groups will allow the BKNF to prioritize trail proposal projects for consideration and possible implementation. As we work with our volunteer and partner organizations, together we can ensure a lasting trails legacy that will serve generations to come.

## 1.0 Introduction

Forest System Trails are the arteries to the heart of any forest and grassland. They are one of the primary pathways that allow people to experience the forests and grasslands beyond the picnic areas, campgrounds, and forest highways. Trails protect and sustain the land, including the hydrologic, soil, and wildlife resources. Trails invite people to the outdoors, to view scenic overlooks and entice them to explore deeper into the forests. They allow a personal interaction with the forest landscape in a minimally constructed and planned environment. Trails enhance people's lives providing connection with nature, increase social bonding, and provide a sense of adventure and release. Trails also contribute to the economic vitality of communities and are one of the key amenities that appeal to local residents and businesses as well as those touring the area.

The Black Hills National Forest receives over 700,000 visitors annually (National Visitor Use Monitoring 2013) and is home to approximately 1,200 miles of trails. With several national icons nestled among the pines of the Black Hills National Forest, this Island in the Plains serves as the backdrop for these symbols of America. A system of recreational roads and trails connects multiple geographic areas, as well as our communities and showcases the Forest by providing user friendly access.

The Forest provides nearly 350 miles of non-motorized trails (Appendix B), 700 miles of motorized system trails, 425 miles of over-snow motorized trails, 58 miles of Nordic ski trails, and 50 miles of winter season fat tire bike trails. A sustainable trail system is integral for year round activities and promotes a way to connect with nature; a system that inspires stewardship and invites people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to experience the outdoors, while protecting and conserving cultural and natural resources.

Prior to this document, the Forest had not completed a comprehensive review, to examine how well the current system of non-motorized trails was working and what changes were needed to better meet the desired spectrum of recreation opportunities, minimize resource impacts, and create a system that can be maintained and managed to Forest Service standards. Several system trails currently represent a legacy of forest management practices and trail interests spanning many years. While some of these trails were well designed and built in sustainable locations, others were not planned within a larger context of providing a comprehensive and sustainable trail program.

Although a forest-wide trails strategy would ideally include all trails including motorized trails, over-snow trails, and vertical trails, this document focuses on non-motorized trails predominantly for pedestrian, biking, and equestrian uses. This strategy is intended to serve as a tool to help provide guidance for an enjoyable trail system that offers access to diverse opportunities while also meeting the goals of social, ecological, and economic sustainability.

In 2016, in response to rising interest from trail users, the BHNF Advisory Board (NFAB) was asked to provide recommendations to the BHNF Supervisor (NFAB Designated Federal Officer). That request was initiated in June 2016 to develop a trail strategy proposal process in which our public could understand and submit trail proposals. The NFAB Working Group worked closely with a team of Forest Service trails professionals, who convened over the same timeframe to provide fact-based data and maps. At the same time, BHNF took the opportunity to begin development of a Forest-wide Trails Strategy to help guide the forest in response to demands for non-motorized trails.

At the national level, the National Forest Trail Stewardship Act and the National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System, became available around the same time that the NFAB and Forest Service trails professionals began this collaborative effort. Information from both of these documents has been incorporated into the BHNH Trail Strategy.

In addition, the following guided the group's effort:

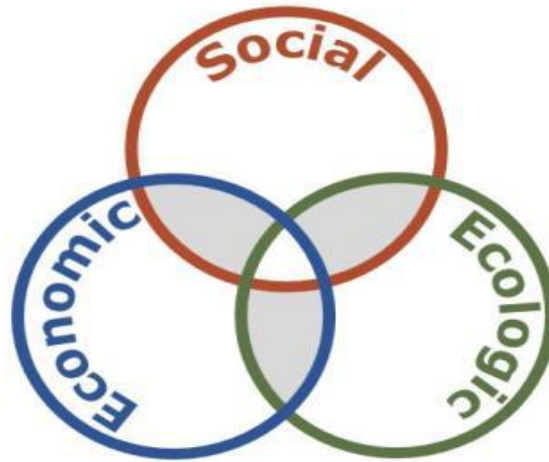
- Review the current direction in the BHNH Land and Resource Management Plan (1997), as amended;
- Review the existing trail system;
- Review routes available to trail users from surrounding land owners (cities, parks, other federal agencies);
- Work with the NFAB on recommendations and a process to allow public nomination of trails and development of the Trail Proposal Process (TPP) as a result of the recommendations.

## 2.0 Purpose and Need for Change

The purpose of this initiative is to provide a framework for the sustainable management of non-motorized trails across the Black Hills National Forest. Visitor use is growing, and current and potential trail users are searching for more diverse experiences. The Forest Service must embrace these changes and refocus the way the agency connects people to their land.

Social, ecologic, and economic considerations are essential elements of a sustainable trail system. Sustainability is achieved at the junction where trails are socially relevant and supported, ecologically resilient, and economically viable. Thoughtful consideration of designed and managed use to meet user experiences, assuring trail sustainability on the ground, and maximizing opportunities for using appropriated funding, grants, partnerships, and volunteers will foster our success. If any of these elements is missing or broken, it will not be a sustainable trail or system and should be considered for adjustment.

*"People don't need trails; the land does." --Jim Angel*



Three main sustainability factors create the need to examine the Black Hills National Forest Trails system:

1. **Social sustainability:** A sustainable trail system should meet the desired experience of the various user groups. It should also be adaptable to future expectations and needs.
2. **Ecological sustainability:** A sustainable trail system requires proper planning, design, location, and construction and must conform to USDA Forest Service National Quality Standards for Trails. Trails will always be in a dynamic state requiring ongoing maintenance. In addition, a proliferation of user-created trails has detracted from our ability to maintain system trails to standard.
3. **Economic sustainability:** A sustainable trail system costs money. Appropriated funding is provided to the Black Hills National Forest to support non-motorized trail maintenance, reconstruction/construction. Current funding is not adequate to support the existing or new demands for trails, therefore leveraging partnerships, developing a robust volunteer program and the pursuit of grants is important.

The concept of sustainability was defined from perspectives of trail users and managers. A sustainable trail system is a holistic network of diverse physical and social resources comprised of actual on-the-ground routes and associated community health and economic benefits.

A sustainable system consists of a wide array of well-planned, well-designed, well-constructed, and well-managed trails that are supported by a mosaic of public and private interests. The system inspires stewardship and invites people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to enjoy and use trails to connect to their public lands while protecting and conserving natural and cultural resources.



### 3.0 Where We Are (Current Status)

#### Background

The Black Hills National Forest has 341 miles of National Forest System non-motorized trails managed for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding. Some of these trails were well designed and built in sustainable locations. Others were developed in response to individual requests and not planned within a larger context of providing a comprehensive trail program, which has led to competing interests and illegal activity (unauthorized trail building).

In addition to the trail system offered by the BHNH; other local, state, government, and private entities offer over 314 miles of additional non-motorized trails in the greater Black Hills. Unfortunately, there are also many miles of unauthorized trails in the BHNH. This includes over 120 miles of trails built by trail activists, by property owners trying to access the forest from their homes or business, and others. Unauthorized trail building is unacceptable. The proliferation of unauthorized or user-created trails drains agency resources and creates resource and safety problems. We must seek to accomplish trail additions in a socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable manner.

#### National Forest Advisory Board Collaboration

The Black Hills National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) provides advice and recommendations on a broad range of forest issues such as forest plan revisions or amendments, forest health including fire and mountain pine beetle epidemics, travel management, forest monitoring and evaluation, recreation fees, and site-specific projects having forest-wide implications.

During the June 2016 NFAB meeting, the Board was asked to provide recommendations to address the growing concerns regarding non-motorized trails across the BHNH. The NFAB accepted this task and appointed a NFAB Non-motorized Trail Working Group (Working Group).

The Working Group began their task in the fall of 2016 using information, data and maps from the forest trail managers. They also engaged trail users to gather information via an online public opinion poll that contained questions regarding a broad range of trail-related issues from users' positive trail experiences to elements of sustainability, and recommendations for improving trail system function and condition. The poll was designed to gather responses from hikers/walkers, trail runners, horseback riders, mountain bikers, and "other" users.

This information helped the Working Group determine if the existing system of trails is not meeting the expectations of trail users. The NFAB recognizes that non-motorized use, including mountain bikes, is an important part of the recreation experience on the forest. As a result, NFAB recommends that the non-motorized trail system be evolved to better match the current and projected needs of the user groups, one that does not dominate or unreasonably interfere with other multiple uses of the forest. Based on results, the Non-motorized Trail Working Group presented (and the NFAB approved) the seven recommendations below in February 2018 and the BHNH accepted them on April 17, 2018



National Forest Advisory Board Recommendations:

1. As a result, the board recommends that the non-motorized trail system be evolved to better match the current and projected needs of the user groups, one that does not dominate or unreasonably interfere with other multiple uses of the forest.
2. The committee recommends the use of a uniform trail proposal process (example included) that combines the social component of trail use, such as gleaned from the 2017 Black Hills non-motorized trail public opinion poll, as well as consideration for the ecological and financial benefit/cost.
3. The National Forest Advisory Board recommends that the Black Hills National Forest pursue cooperative planning efforts with local municipalities (city and county), states of South Dakota and Wyoming, and other Federal land management agencies (e.g. Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, etc.) in order to “edge match” and align with the respective land management mission.
4. The National Forest Advisory Board understands the concept of community connection with their national forest and the desire to connect and tie communities in some fashion. In consideration for this desire, recommendations include:
  - a) The trail system should consist of trail development opportunities tiered off the existing arterial trail system, with stacked loop systems that utilize existing infrastructure (e.g. trailheads), when feasible;
  - b) There are numerous system trails within the boundary of the Black Hills National Forest that generally seem to meet the needs of users as depicted in the 2017 public opinion poll. The 1997 Forest plan, recognized and proposed, with public involvement, a detailed non-motorized system of 511 miles. As of the end of 2017, that system is approximately 500 to 544 miles (include proposed trails that are likely to be constructed). The board recommends working within that system as outlined in the 1997 Forest Plan and updated in 2017;
  - c) Trails should not be specific to just one user group (non-motorized); and
  - d) Strive for an equality or balance of trail user opportunity as described in the public opinion poll as a “good day.”
5. As the trail system evolves it must take into account Congressionally appropriated funding, municipalities and other entities with the capability of short term and long term financial sustainability, and the support of well-organized volunteer groups with long term financial sustainability to assure commitment to a trail system that is socially, financially, and ecologically sustainable.
6. The National Forest Advisory Board recommends that the US Forest Service (Black Hills National Forest) increase its dedication to education of the forest’s non-motorized trail system. The board heard from respondents in the 2017 Black Hills area public opinion poll of non-motorized users that emphasis should be placed on the following:
  - a) Improve maps and map availability as a means to educate users on the availability and opportunities for non-motorized trail experiences;
  - b) Increase education focus on trail etiquette, to include topics such as the hierarchy of trail right of way (e.g. horses have right of way over hikers); resource issues as a result of cutting switchbacks; improved signing, etc; and
  - c) The board recognizes that cross country travel, as an option, is what makes non-motorized an additional way to enjoy and explore the Black Hills National Forest. The working group recommends messaging on the distinction of cross country travel and building or maintaining trails as reflected in law and regulation that guides the national forest.

7. The National Forest Advisory Board recommends that the Black Hills National Forest consider replicating the 2017 public opinion poll every five years, with minor adjustments to questions. This would facilitate a better understanding of what Black Hill National Forest customer's desire from their non-motorized trail system, as a "snap shot" in time.

## 4.0 Where We Want To Be (Future Condition)

The Black Hills National Forest, with the passage of the *National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (Stewardship Act)* in November 2016 as well as the *National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System (National Strategy)* produced by the US Forest Service in December 2016, felt that the time was right to create a Trails Strategy for the Forest. There is a desire to have access and ability to enjoy the outdoors, yet recreation use causes impacts socially, ecologically, and/or economically. Solutions need to focus on common goals and clearly defined impacts.

The National Trail Strategy identifies seven core values for the Forest Service. By adopting the following core values, we lay the foundation together for making sustainable trail systems a priority and ensuring pathways to public lands remain—for all people, for many generations to come.

### Core Values

1. Safety—Value the safety of trail users, volunteers, partners, and employees and are dedicated to performing our work safely and providing safe trail opportunities for all.
2. Sustainability—Value the land and will steward a trail system that is relevant to a changing society, is ecologically viable, and that can be sustained by current and potential partner, volunteer, and agency resources.
3. Commitment—Value the strong traditions, skills, and dedication of our partner, volunteer, and employee workforce and will foster continued growth through training and leadership opportunities.
4. Access— Value the ability of everyone to connect to the outdoors and are committed to providing quality access through a variety of trail settings and opportunities.
5. Inclusion— Value everyone—trail users, partners, volunteers, employees, and friends, regardless of age, ability, or cultural background.
6. Communication— Value the exchange of information that is up-to-date, accurate, widely available in multiple formats, and relevant to both trail users and those involved in sustainable trail planning, design, and maintenance.
7. Relationships— Value collaborative relationships and are committed to working across jurisdictional and cultural boundaries to maximize diverse skillsets and generate innovative approaches.

### Black Hills National Forest Non-motorized Trail Strategy Goals:

- Have a sustainable trail system providing a range of high quality recreation experiences.
- Where feasible, connect Forest Service trails with adjacent public lands and local communities.
- Have a vibrant volunteer program and partnerships.
- Have educated and engaged internal and external users on trail issues, management, and

opportunities available on Forest and surrounding areas.

- Eliminate illegal trail building.

Permitted trails may be added to the Forest system with long term dedicated partnerships. These partnerships may include county, city, and local governments, non-profit, and volunteer trail stewards. Supportable techniques include trail maintenance, establishing trailheads, parking lots, or access points in those communities to enhance connecting communities. The process of converting permitted trails to the Forest trail system also affords the Forest the opportunity to analyze whether the Forest needs trails remote from the Forest's local population base of potential trail stewards.

The Black Hills National Forest will evaluate proposed additions or changes to the trail system using the Trail Proposal Process (Appendix C).

## 5.0 How We Get There

We understand visitor expectations about our non-motorized trail system are different than they were 20 years ago when the Forest Plan was developed. It has been years since any substantial change to the trail system has been made to adjust to the changing needs of society. We would like to move forward to meet the changing needs of the public to improve our non-motorized trail system.

Our objectives are:

- Focus on public input and the needs of the trail users, along with ecological, economic, and social sustainability;
- Work with local communities and other land management agencies to create a connected system of trails;
- Explore new opportunities to engage volunteers and partners;
- Continue interaction with the public, encouraging stewardship of trails; and
- Use the Trail Proposal Process (TPP).

In response to the public opinion poll, the Black Hills National Forest will strive to provide a sustainable trail system with a range of high quality recreation experiences for each use-type, and emphasize a quality experience over quantity of trail miles.

Key objectives to include:

- Identify unsustainable trails needing maintenance or relocation due to poor location, erosion, excessive grade, etc.
- Identify existing trails that can be used as loop opportunities with construction of short connector trails.
- Identify trails which are little-used, unsustainable for their designed use, serve no function within a complex, or are incompatible with other resource objectives and should be decommissioned.
- Identify needs for supporting infrastructure, such as trail head improvements, signage, information kiosks, etc. Design trail systems to utilize existing developed recreation facilities.

- Provide long distance opportunities.

## **Trail Proposal Process**

In conjunction with this non-motorized trails strategy, the Forest Supervisor requested the National Forest Advisory Board come up with a process for the public to request new trails. Their suggestions were incorporated into the Trail Proposal Process (TPP) which includes public proposals and a series of reviews. (Appendix C).

Adding new trails to the system is a difficult decision. When a user-group or individual requests a new trail they usually offer to maintain or even construct the route, but may not have knowledge of the costs associated with trail planning, design, and environmental review. In some cases these proposals have had no consideration of how the trail would function within a complex, if there are adequate facilities, if it would conform to Forest Plan and National trail management direction, or if the proposal would impact other resources.

The BKNF receives numerous requests for additional trails each year. Because personnel time is needed to evaluate these proposals, complete environmental analysis, prepare needed contracts, and work with volunteers and partners we probably will not be able to move ahead on all proposals. The Trail Proposal Process (TPP) will be used to evaluate and determine which proposal(s) will move forward. Our goal is to provide a higher quality trail experience, not simply an increase in trail miles.

The TPP includes an evaluation of the social, economic and ecologic sustainability of the nominated routes. The trail managers will use it to review and make recommendations to the Forest Supervisor for a decision. It is comprised of 5 steps designed to engage proponents and agency managers to define and evaluate proposed trail projects:

1. Initial Project Proposal Description (proponent completes);
2. Proposal reviewed for consistency with Forest Plan and Ecological, Economical, and Social sustainability (agency completes);
3. Forest "open season" review (agency completes);
4. Business Plan Summary (proponent completes); and
5. District Final Review and Forest Supervisor Briefing (agency completes).

## **Economic Considerations**

A trail system requires three areas of financial expenditure to support the trails:

- Environmental Review
- Design and Construction
- Maintenance

Any trail that is reconstructed, relocated, newly constructed, or simply maintained must go through some form of environmental analysis. Costs can vary significantly based upon the level of analysis required. Typically, the majority of projects fall within the Categorical Exclusion or Environmental Analysis (EA) category. A general rule of thumb is to estimate anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for an EA.

The remaining costs for construction, relocation, and maintenance are costs of supplies, equipment, and labor. The support to these costs can come in the form of cash (“hard” money) or volunteer time (“soft” money). We will all need to work together to create and maintain a trail system that meets the needs of users and is sustainable.

## **Trail Volunteers**

The future of recreational trails on the Black Hills National Forest relies on a close cooperative and communicative relationship between the Forest Service and the leaders and members of the volunteer organizations. Volunteers have generously donated their time and talent to advance the Forest Service Mission.

Trail volunteerism itself is a form of recreation. People form tight social networks, create lasting positive memories, and enrich their lives by donating time and energy to Forest Service trails. Volunteers engaged in the trail program should be managed by the Forest Service in a way that leverages their value as a labor force, provides a mutual benefit, respects volunteer status as constituents and owners of the public lands legacy, and honors their charity by ensuring their time is well spent, meaningful, and enjoyable.

The Trail Strategy collaborative process has provided an opportunity for improved communication between the Forest Service and volunteers. It is the Forest Service goal to strengthen these relationships and develop more effective partnerships to improve volunteer efforts for the future.

To shift from an unsustainable trail system to a sustainable one, the Forest Service will empower shared stewardship within the trails community to invest in these world-class and diverse trails.

Potential ways to increase efficiencies from a volunteer program include

- Volunteers serving as volunteer coordinators and project leaders;
- Forest-wide volunteer agreements;
- Adopt-a-trail programs; and
- Coordinate volunteer training programs across the forest.

## **6.0 How Are We Doing? (Evaluation)**

Continue the Trail Strategy collaborative process into the future, with opportunities for public feedback, information exchange, updating project proposals, and reporting of trail maintenance and improvement accomplishments. We realize the TPP process will likely need fine tuning as we begin using it.

By engaging with internal and external collaborators, building on shared values, acknowledging current challenges, and embracing change, we can improve our trails program and achieve a sustainable trails system. We acknowledge that we do not have all the answers, but together we have found a launching point.

## Appendix A – Glossary

**Allowed Use**

The use of a trail that is allowed but not actively managed for that use.

**Authorized trail**

Use of a trail that is allowed by special permit or other legal designation.

**Collaboration**

To work together, especially in a joint intellectual effort.

**Construction**

The displacement of vegetation, soil, and rock and the installation of man-made structures involved in the process of building a complete, permanent trail facility. The activities occur at a location, or corridor, that is not currently occupied by a trail.

**Core Value**

Principles that guide an organization's internal conduct as well as its relationships with external entities.

**Designed Use**

The single Managed Use of a trail that requires the most demanding design, construction, and maintenance parameters and that, in conjunction with the applicable Trail Class, determines which Design Parameters will apply to a trail.

**Forest Plan**

1997 Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended.

**Goal**

Broad, general statement that encompasses the desired future conditions that the U.S. Forest Service seeks to attain.

**Inclusion**

The state of being included.

**Managed Use**

A mode of travel that is actively managed and appropriate on a trail, based on its design and management.

**Multiple Use**

Multiple use of the United States National Forests means the "harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with

consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output."<sup>[1]</sup> Multiple use implies a sustained yield of outdoor recreation, range, timber, watershed, and wildlife and fish values.

### **Multiple Use Trail**

Trails that are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of users and managers; trails that are designed for more than a single use type.

### **NEPA**

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An act declaring a national policy to encourage productive harmony between people and their environment; to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and the biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of people to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation; and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

### **Non-Motorized Trail**

A trail designed and managed for non-motorized uses such as hiking, biking, horseback riding, etc.

### **Non-System Trail**

A trail not actively managed as a National Forest system trail.

### **Objective**

Concise statement of desired measurable results intended to promote achievement of specific goals. Attainment of objectives is limited by the applications of standards and guidelines.

### **Partnership**

Mutually agreed upon relationship between two persons, groups, or other entities.

### **Reconstruction**

Construction activities performed on an existing trail. Reconstruction includes those activities that alter the trail from its originally constricted or subsequently reconstructed condition.

### **Resource Damage**

Damage to a natural feature.

### **Sustainable**

A trail able to be maintained at a steady level without exhausting natural resources or causing severe ecological damage, allowing for continued use.



**System Trail**

A trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.

**Trail**

A general term denoting a route, usually less than 50 inches wide for purposes of travel by foot, stock, or bicycles.

**Unauthorized trail**

Use of a trail that is not allowed without authority or permission, by special permit, or other legal designation.

**Unsustainable**

Trails that are not capable of prolonged or continued use without causing resource damage.

**Vertical Trail**

Route that is used specifically for rock climbing.

**Volunteer**

A person who voluntarily offers themselves for a service or undertaking.

## Appendix B – System Trail Mileages

Miles of non-motorized system trails on the Black Hills National Forest. Mileages shown are based upon the 1997 Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement, as referenced below.

<b>1997 Forest Plan System Trails (FEIS II-20)</b>			
307 miles			
<b>1997 Forest Plan FEIS Proposed Trails (FEIS II-21)</b>			
Bearlodge Ranger District	16.0 miles		
Hell Canyon Ranger District	10.0 miles		
Mystic Ranger District	14.0 miles		
Northern Hills Ranger District	26.6 miles		
Rails to Trails	37.0 miles		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>103.6 miles</b>		
	+ 100.0 miles unnamed trails		
	<b>203.6 miles</b>		
<b>2017 Status of Forest Plan FEIS Proposed Trails (FEIS II-21)</b>		<b>With Mickelson Trail</b>	<b>Without Mickelson Trail</b>
Bearlodge Ranger District		35.2	35.2
Hell Canyon Ranger District		34.17	6.20
Mystic Ranger District		23.63	0.0
Northern Hills Ranger District		65.57	44.47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>158.87</b>	<b>85.87</b>
<b>Mickelson Trail is managed by the State of SD and not part of Forest Service System trails.</b>		<b>-72.7</b>	
<b>2017 Status of Existing System Trails (FEIS II-20)</b>			
Bearlodge Ranger District			66.06
Hell Canyon Ranger District			69.02
Mystic Ranger District			93.96
Northern Hills Ranger District			111.82
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>340.86</b>
<b>Trails Not Accounted for Above, But Likely to Move Forward</b>			
Bearlodge Ranger District	3.50 miles (not included in total below)		
Hell Canyon Ranger District	15.00 miles		
Mystic Ranger District	10.06 miles		
Northern Hills Ranger District	16.13 miles		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44.69 miles</b>		<b>44.69</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL SYSTEM TRAIL MILES</b>		<b>544.12</b>	<b>471.42</b>

## APPENDIX C – Trail Proposal Process (TPP)

Proponent Completes					
<b>Trail Proposal Process</b> Initial Project Proposal Description				<b>STEP 1</b>	
				Date:	
<i>INSTRUCTIONS: Please complete this form with as much information as possible, including that in the narrative, topographic maps, and photos. Although not required it will help in working through the review process and onto Step 2 and Step 3.</i>					
<b>1. Proposal Submitted By</b>					
Full Name	Last	First			
Organization					
Address		City		State	Zip Code
Phone #		E-mail Address			
<b>2. Proposal Overview</b>					
Project Proposal Name					
U.S. Forest Service Unit					
Recreation Site or Trail					
<b>Project Proposal Description</b>  Must include maps in electronic format, i.e. GIS Shapefile (.shp) or Google Earth KML (.kml)					
<b>3. Type of Action*</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Repair / Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Reroute <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other</span> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New Construction					
*Check the box(es) best describing the type(s) of action(s).					
<b>4. Background &amp; Need</b>					
<b>Background</b>  Give a brief description of the events leading to the proposal.					
<b>Need</b>  Describe the need for the project.					

**Project Estimates**

<b>Estimated Date of Desired Completion (e.g. grant deadline, etc.)</b>		<i>[Provide additional comments regarding project timeline.]</i>
<b>Implementation Strategy</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local entity, state, or federal agency <input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<i>[Explain further, such as if implementation will be accomplished through a combination of strategies.]</i>
<b>Anticipated Budgetary Needs</b>	NEPA Costs (\$50,000-100,000 depending on scope and scale) \$ _____	<i>[Provide additional comments including how the cost estimates were derived.]</i>
	Implementation Costs \$ _____	
	Annual Operation and Maintenance Costs \$ _____	
<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local entity, state, or federal agency <input type="checkbox"/> Partner <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	<i>[Explain further, such as if funding will be provided through allocated funds, CIP, grants/agreements, or a combination of sources.]</i>

**6. Additional Information**

The following supporting documentation is attached to this proposal:

☐ Photograph(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Report(s) \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Stop Here – Official Use Only Beyond This Point**

**Signature**

☐ I do not support the proposal moving forward for further consideration.

☐ I endorse proceeding to Step 2 to further evaluate this proposal.

**District Ranger:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Print*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

## Agency Completes Within 60 Days of Receipt

### Trail Proposal Process

Proposal Reviewed for Consistency with Forest Plan and Ecological, Financial, and Social Sustainability

### STEP 2

Date of Receipt:

**Project Proposal Name:**

*INSTRUCTIONS: Evaluate the proposal based upon its alignment with forest and program objectives, as well as its likelihood for sustainability. Items with **RED** shading indicate **critical items**, of which all must be positive, and items with **GREEN** shading must meet 80/20 rule of which 80% must be positive in order to move to Step 3.*

(-) Proposal does not appear to meet the intent of the measure.

(+) Proposal appears to meet intent of the measure.

### A. MISSION, ROLE, AND DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

**Consistency with Black Hills National Forest Direction and Plans** - Is trail proposal consistent with established Forest direction (e.g., regulation, directives), and other relevant planning documents (e.g., agency strategic plan goals)?

☐ There appear to be some inconsistencies, and/or there is uncertainty as to whether the trail will be managed consistent with Forest direction and plans.

**1**

☐ The proposed trail is consistent with established Forest direction.

**Consistency with Neighboring Jurisdictions** – Is the proposed trail consistent with local communities and other jurisdiction's planning direction?

☐ No priorities have been identified, and/or the local unit would not consider this a priority trail (even though there may be public interest and support).

**2**

☐ This trail has been identified as a Forest priority (National Scenic Historic Trail) or has been identified as a priority through collaborative planning processes.

☐ Local community or jurisdictions have not been involved, no interest has been expressed, and /or some concerns have been expressed by the local community about this trail proposal

**3**

☐ Local community or jurisdictions have been involved, interest has been expressed and supported in writing, and some concerns have been expressed by the local community about this trail proposal.

**Trail Uniqueness and Other Providers** – Are there other possible providers in the area such as state or county parks, private providers, or other USFS sites that currently offer a similar opportunity or experience?

☐ There are similar trail opportunities in the area (or is not easily accessed from population centers).

**4**

☐ There are no other similar providers in the area (or is easily accessed from population centers).

☐ The proposed trail's primary function does not provide access to a destination (e.g. waterfall, scenic vista, etc.), and/or this trail does not offer unique opportunity.

**5**

☐ The proposed trail's primary function is to provide access to a destination (e.g. waterfall, scenic vista, etc.), and/or this trail will offer a unique opportunity.

☐ Trail does not improve access (e.g. provides connectivity to other trails or trail systems).

**6**

☐ Trail improves access (e.g. provides connectivity to other trails or trail systems).

☐ Proposed trail requires access across private property (i.e. easement is required).

**7**

☐ Proposed trail does not require access across private property (i.e. no easement required).

**Trail Role and Purpose** – Will this proposed trail provide a quality experience for a wide variety of users?

☐ No – This proposed trail will only appeal to a limited user group (very limited targeted group such as experts only, private community, etc.)

**8**

☐ Yes – This proposed trail will offer a variety of experiences either within user groups (beginner, intermediate, advanced) or between user groups (multi-use).

☐ No – This proposed trail will not offer access and use yearlong or a large portion of the year. Seasonal closure will be necessary to accommodate resource concerns such as big game winter range, bat hibernacula, or wet soils.

**9**

☐ Yes – this proposed trail will offer access and use yearlong or a large portion of the year. Seasonal closures will not be necessary to accommodate resource concerns such as big game winter range, bat hibernacula, or wet soils.

## B. PROTECT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

**Resources** – Are there resource concerns with the proposed location of the new trail?

<input type="radio"/> Cultural resources are known to exist in the area, and it may be difficult to mitigate impacts.	<b>10</b>	<input type="radio"/> Cultural resource concerns are nonexistent or may exist in the area, but any impacts can be mitigated.
<input type="radio"/> Certain wildlife resources are known to exist in the area, and it may be difficult to mitigate impacts.	<b>11</b>	<input type="radio"/> Certain wildlife resources are nonexistent or may exist in the area, but any impacts can be mitigated.
<input type="radio"/> Certain botanical and/or hydrologic resources are known to exist in the area, and it may be difficult to mitigate impacts.	<b>12</b>	<input type="radio"/> Botanical and/or hydrologic resources are nonexistent or may exist in the area, but any impacts can be mitigated.
<input type="radio"/> Conflicts with livestock grazing are known to exist in the Area, and it may be difficult to mitigate impacts.	<b>13</b>	<input type="radio"/> Conflicts with livestock grazing are nonexistent or may exist in the area, but any impacts can be mitigated.

**Location/Grade** - Can this proposed trail meet sustainable location and grade (avg. 8 - 10%, on the contour, adequate cross slope, etc.)?

<input type="radio"/> The proposed trail can generally be located sustainably but will require constructed features to mitigate problem areas.	<b>14</b>	<input type="radio"/> The proposed trail can meet all best management practices and locally established design parameters.
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**Hydrology and Drainage** – What are the impacts to the area hydrology and drainage?

<input type="radio"/> Proposed trail will require constructed features to mitigate hydrology and drainage impacts.	<b>15</b>	<input type="radio"/> Proposed trail will have minimal requirements for additional constructed features, and drainage can be managed with standard grade reversals or rolling grade dips.
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**Soil Suitability** - What is known about the soils in the location identified for this proposed trail? (recognizing NEPA may not have occurred yet)?

<input type="radio"/> Soil suitability has not been considered for the trail, or the trail will be constructed on soils poorly suited for trail managed uses – special attention will be needed to address soil and water concerns.	<b>16</b>	<input type="radio"/> The trail is on a location where soils should be compatible with trail managed uses.
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**Water Crossings** - How will this proposed trail impact water crossings?

<input type="radio"/> Proposed location requires water crossings which must be mitigated by structures.	<b>17</b>	<input type="radio"/> The proposed location doesn't require crossings, or crossings do not require structures.
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**Trail Tread** – Will this proposed trail, its managed uses and use levels, require significant tread construction/reinforcement?

<input type="radio"/> Materials will have to be brought in to create an adequate trail surface due to the existing soils or predicted use and/or will require more than planned maintenance levels.	<b>18</b>	<input type="radio"/> The native tread materials should be able to support the intended use and capacity with only annual maintenance and/or minor use of materials.
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**Closure Protocol** – Will this proposed trail need seasonal and/or wet weather closures?

<input type="radio"/> The proposed trail will need a seasonal or wet weather closure under certain conditions	<b>19</b>	<input type="radio"/> The trail will be designed to withstand wet weather issues except in extreme conditions.
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**C. VISITOR SATISFACTION****Level of Use** – Has the expected level of use been incorporated into the trail design?☐ *The proposed trail design has been developed based on physical location without regard to expected levels of use.***20**☐ *Level of use has been incorporated into the planning process and is appropriate for the expected use.***Trail Length** – Is this proposed trail of sufficient length to provide a desired user experience (day use or multi-day)?☐ *This proposed trail does not achieve the recommended length for the activity.***21**☐ *The proposed trail meets the desired length and desired user experience (day use or multi-day).***User Experience** – Does the proposed trail offer the appropriate mix of experiences and have an appropriate configuration (loops, connections) to provide a quality experience?☐ *No—The proposed trail does not offer an appropriate configuration (long linear trails, short loops, etc.)***22**☐ *Yes—The proposed trail offers an appropriate configuration of stacked loops, connections, etc., to provide a quality experience.***User Conflict** – If the proposed trail is a multi-use trail, is it designed to minimize conflict between users?☐ *Trail is designed mainly for one user group.***23**☐ *Design should reduce the likelihood of user conflict.***Trailheads** – Have trailheads been adequately planned/evaluated for this proposed trail project?☐ *Trailhead(s) have not been planned as part of this project, and/or they are to be fully developed later.***24**☐ *Trailhead(s) are planned to provide sustainable access, support trail capacity and take advantage of existing facilities. Existing trailheads meet expanded capacity needs.*☐ *Trail proposal may require new facilities or infrastructure.***25**☐ *Trail design plan does not propose to make other associated facilities and infrastructure necessary (e.g. toilets, parking areas, trailhead kiosks, etc.).***Accessibility to Users** – Will this proposed trail likely to expand access on the forest for users with disabilities, children or senior citizens?☐ *Proposed trail is not likely to expand access for persons with disabilities and/or attract users with small children or senior citizens.***26**☐ *Proposed trail will provide access for persons with disabilities and/or add other features likely to attract users with small children or senior citizens.***D. FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE****Volunteer Partner Group** – Is this proposed trail supported by a local trail or volunteer group?☐ *There is no support group for this specific trail.***27**☐ *There is an active and well-established volunteer or partner group ready and willing to support long-term maintenance, or Adopt-A-Trail.***Trail Design and Layout** – Has the proposed trail been designed and laid out to maximize sustainability and user experience by professionals or highly skilled people with a proven track record?☐ *Unsure of the qualifications of the person who designed and laid out the trail.***28**☐ *Trail was designed and laid out by a professional trail builder, engineering or trail tech, or trail volunteer with a solid track record of designing and laying out sustainable trails.***Constructed Trail Features** - Will this proposed trail require new constructed features valued over 20% of the total cost of the trail construction (boardwalks, bridges, hardened surfaces, steps, etc.)?☐ *Yes – They are necessary for resource protection.***29**☐ *No – Cost does not exceed 20% of total budget.*



<b>NEPA and Implementation</b> – How likely is it that this project can/will be funded with a grant to complete NEPA and implement project?		
<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a low probability or no firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be secured to <b>complete NEPA for the project.</b></i>	<b>30</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a high probability or a firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be secured to <b>complete NEPA for the project.</b></i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a low probability or no firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be received to <b>implement the project.</b></i>	<b>31</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a high probability or a firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be received to <b>implement the project.</b></i>
<b>Annual Maintenance Costs</b> - How will the trail affect long-term annual maintenance costs?		
<input type="radio"/> <i>The project will add <b>long-term annual maintenance costs</b> (inspections, repairs, etc.).</i>	<b>32</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>The trail has financial commitments through fees, partners, community support, etc., that will cover the <b>costs of long-term annual maintenance.</b></i>

Notes/Comments		
Summary	Negative	Positive
Red		
Green		

**Stop Here – Official Use Only Beyond This Point**

Signature		
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not support the proposal moving forward for further consideration. This document shall be submitted to the proponent, under a cover letter explaining rationale for returning their proposal.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I endorse the proposal. Proceed.		
<b>District Ranger:</b> _____		
Print	Signature	Date

## Agency Completes

### Trail Proposal Process

### STEP 3

Forest "Open Season" Review

Date:

*INSTRUCTIONS: Forest Recreation Staff Officer, District Recreation Staff, and District Trails specialists convene to review all proposals received forest wide:*

1. *To consider the merits of each trail relative to other proposals, and*
2. *Determine whether to recommend further action to move proposal forward.*

#### 1997 FOREST PLAN FEIS Table II-20 and II-21 (Does not include the Mickelson Trail)

	1997 FEIS Table II-21	Status of FP Trails as of 2017
Bearlodge	16.0	35.2
Hell Canyon	10.0	6.2
Mystic	14.0	0.0
Northern Hills	26.6	44.5
Unnamed Trails	100.0	53.9
FOREST TOTAL	166.6	85.9

#### 2017 STATUS OF EXISTING SYSTEM TRAILS BY DESIGNED USE

	Hiking/Running		Horseback		Biking	
	2017	Proposed	2017	Proposed	2017	Proposed
Bearlodge	2		61		4	
Hell Canyon	8		50		0	
Mystic	20		74		0	
Northern Hills	7		102		0	
FOREST TOTAL	37		287		4	

#### 2017 STATUS OF EXISTING SYSTEM TRAILS BY DESIGNED AND MANAGED USE

	Hiking/Running		Horseback		Biking	
	2017	Proposed	2017	Proposed	2017	Proposed
Bearlodge	67		61		67	
Hell Canyon	58		52		8	
Mystic	93		74		75	
Northern Hills	109		102		102	
FOREST TOTAL	327		289		252	
"Good Days"	33 – 327		14 – 26		12 – 42	
Hiking = 1 – 10 miles Running = 6 – 15 miles Horseback = 11 – 20+ miles Biking = 6 – 20 miles	44		19		13	

**CRITICAL ITEMS FROM STEP 2**

Trail Project Proposal Name	Step 2 Question 1	Step 2 Question 7	Step 2 Questions 30, 31, 32

Trail Project Proposal Name	Move Forward to Step 4	Rationale
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

**Stop Here – Official Use Only Beyond This Point****Signature**

- ☐ I do not support the proposal moving forward for further consideration. This document shall be submitted to the proponent, under a cover letter explaining rationale for denial of their proposal.
- ☐ I endorse the proposal. Proceed.

**Forest Recreation Group:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Print*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Date***Signature**

- ☐ I do not support the proposal moving forward for further consideration. This document shall be submitted to the proponent, under a cover letter explaining rationale for denial of their proposal.
- ☐ I endorse the proposal, with stipulations. Proceed.

**District Ranger:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Print*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Date*

## Proponent Completes

## Trail Proposal Process

## STEP 4

## Business Plan Summary

Date:

*INSTRUCTIONS: Project proponent from Step 1 summarizes costs from a business plan developed for this project. Costs must be pulled from business plan and inserted here with business plan submitted with this step as background.*

## 1. NEPA Projected Costs

**NEPA Projected Costs** – These estimates must be supported by an in-depth business plan. These listed below are not all encompassing costs but do identify some of the critical costs to completing the NEPA analysis.

	Estimated Costs
Specialist Public opinion polls	\$
Public Scoping (mailing cost)	\$
Alternative Development/Analysis	\$
Document in a CE, EA, or EIS	\$
Inherently Governmental: Consultation with USF&W and SHPO (Reports)	\$
Inherently Governmental: Decision Document	\$
Mail decision to those who participated in public scoping (mailing cost)	\$
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	\$

## 2. Project Implementation Costs

**Project Implementation Costs** – These estimates must be supported by an in-depth business plan. These listed below are not all encompassing costs but do identify some of the critical costs to completing the implementation of the construction.

**NOTE: Any improvements or infrastructure become property of the Black Hills National Forest, unless such improvements are authorized under another authority.**

	Estimated Costs
Supplies and Materials	\$
Construction	\$
Signage, education plan, etc.	\$
Major Infrastructure Components	\$

### 3. Annual and Long-Term Maintenance Costs

**Long-Term Maintenance Costs** – *These estimates must be supported by an in-depth business plan. These listed below are not all encompassing costs but do identify some of the critical costs to completing the implementation of the construction. **NOTE: Any improvements or infrastructure become property of the Black Hills National Forest, unless such improvements are authorized under another authority.***

	Estimated Costs
<b>Estimated Annual Maintenance Cost</b>	\$
Tread Maintenance to Standard	
Trail Clearing to Standard	
Supplies and Materials	\$
Signage, etc.	\$
Other	\$
<b>Projected Replacement Cost</b>	\$
Tread & Clearing	\$
Major Infrastructure Components	\$
Other	\$
<b>Projected Removal and Restoration Cost</b>	\$
Tread	
Major Infrastructure Components	\$
Other	\$
<b>Total Estimated Other Costs</b>	\$
<b>TOTAL COST</b>	\$

**Stop Here – Official Use Only Beyond This Point**

### 4. Signature

☐ I do not support the proposal moving forward for further consideration.

☐ I endorse proceeding to Step 5 to further evaluate this proposal.

**District Ranger:**

\_\_\_\_\_

*Print*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Date*

<b>Agency Completes</b>		8/16/2018
<b>Trail Proposal Process</b>		<b>STEP 5</b>
District Final Review and Forest Supervisor Briefing		Date: _____
Instructions: District Ranger will review all five steps with District Recreation Staff and brief Forest Supervisor on recommendations to move to NEPA and potentially add to trail system.		
Project Proposal Name: _____		
Type of NEPA Action:	<input type="checkbox"/> Reject	<input type="checkbox"/> CE or EA <input type="checkbox"/> EIS
Potential issues: _____		

MANAGE EFFECTIVELY		
<b>Consistency with Black Hills National Forest Direction and Plans</b> - Is trail proposal consistent with established Forest direction (e.g., regulation, directives), and other relevant planning documents (e.g., agency strategic plan goals)?		
<input type="radio"/> <i>There appear to be some inconsistencies and/or there is uncertainty as to whether the trail will be managed consistent with Forest direction and plans.</i>	<b>1</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>The proposed trail is consistent with established Forest direction.</i>
<b>Trail Uniqueness and Other Providers</b> – Are there other possible providers in the area such as state or county parks, private providers, or other USFS sites that currently offer a similar opportunity or experience?		
<input type="radio"/> <i>Proposed trail requires access across private property (i.e. easement is required).</i>	<b>7</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>Proposed trail does not require access across private property (i.e. no easement required).</i>
<b>NEPA and Implementation</b> – How likely is it that this project can/will be funded with a grant to complete NEPA and implement project?		
<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a low probability or no firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be secured to <b>complete NEPA for the project.</b></i>	<b>30</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a high probability or a firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be secured to <b>complete NEPA for the project.</b></i>
<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a low probability or no firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be received to <b>implement the project.</b></i>	<b>31</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>There is a high probability or a firm commitment that a substantial amount of funding can be received to <b>implement the project.</b></i>
<b>Annual Maintenance Costs</b> - How will the trail affect long-term annual maintenance costs?		
<input type="radio"/> <i>The project will add <b>long-term annual maintenance costs</b> (inspections, repairs, etc.).</i>	<b>32</b>	<input type="radio"/> <i>The trail has financial commitments through fees, partners, community support, etc., that will cover the <b>costs of long-term annual maintenance.</b></i>

**Stop Here – Official Use Only Beyond This Point**

Signature		
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not support the proposal moving forward for further consideration. This document shall be submitted to the proponent, under a cover letter explaining rationale for denial of their proposal.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I endorse the proposal. Proceed.		
District Ranger: _____		
Print	Signature	Date

Signature		
<input type="checkbox"/> I do not support the proposal moving forward for further consideration. This document shall be submitted to the proponent, under a cover letter explaining rationale for denial of their proposal.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I endorse the proposal, with stipulations. Proceed.		
Forest Supervisor: _____		
Print	Signature	Date

